

The background papers on the candidate national program priorities are intended to be thought pieces to initiate further discussion. When priorities are selected more detailed strategies with in-depth background information, numerical targets, schedules, milestones and performance measures will be developed.

Proposed Priority: Clean Air Act/Air Toxics (implementation of Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Compliance and Enforcement Strategy)

Universe and Types of Facilities

Sources of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) for which MACT Standards have been promulgated under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

Geographic Range

All Regions

Environmental Risks

MACT standards are promulgated under the CAA to regulate the most hazardous air pollutants and those posing the highest degree of risk to human health and the environment. By ensuring compliance with MACT standards, the Agency will reduce public exposure to toxic air emissions. Emphasis on MACT standards over several years can ensure that the requirements are clearly understood, guidance and compliance assistance tools (e.g., permitting and enforcement guidance, inspector checklist and applicability flow charts) are developed for both regulatory agencies and the regulated community and targeted inspections and enforcement are carried out.

By 2004, EPA will have promulgated approximately 90 MACT standards. Since FY 2000, the Air Toxics program has been an OECA priority. The objective of the priority has been to distribute the substantial MACT implementation workload between headquarters and the regions through a Regional Adopt-a-MACT program. Through the program, the regions adopted MACT standards for which they developed compliance monitoring and compliance assistance tools. This program has resulted in the availability of a wide array of MACT implementation tools such as inspector check lists, applicability flowcharts and compliance timelines. Now that compliance dates are in place for more than 40 MACT Standards and implementation tools are available for the majority of these standards, the focus of the Air Toxics priority will shift from primarily a compliance assistance and tool development effort to compliance monitoring and enforcement. To facilitate this shift in focus, OECA has developed the MACT Compliance and Enforcement Strategy (MACT Strategy). Implementation of the MACT Strategy will help EPA to establish compliance baselines, and develop and evaluate compliance trends for major MACT sources and source categories.

The background papers on the candidate national program priorities are intended to be thought pieces to initiate further discussion. When priorities are selected more detailed strategies with in-depth background information, numerical targets, schedules, milestones and performance measures will be developed.

Noncompliance Information

To achieve the maximum environmental benefit, EPA regional offices will primarily focus on major sources of hazardous air pollutants and specifically target larger sources with higher potential of environmental risk. As the EPA regional offices complete compliance evaluations, noncompliance information will be gathered and shared among the regional offices and with our state and local agency counterparts to facilitate compliance monitoring and enforcement.